



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **TWO MEXICAN NATIONALS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH HARBORING AND CONFINING THIRTY-EIGHT UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS IN TUCSON STASH HOUSE**

TUCSON – Jose Manuel Enriquez-Hernandez, 29, and Isidro Aguilera-Cortez, 29, both of Mexico, were arrested and charged on March 29 with conspiracy to transport and harbor illegal aliens for the purpose of commercial advantage or private financial gain.

On March 27, United States Immigration and Customs (ICE) Special Agents received information that a house located at 518 W. Dakota Avenue, in Tucson, was being used as a stash house for illegal aliens. On March 28, ICE Special Agents obtained a federal search warrant for this residence. A search of the house revealed 38 undocumented aliens, as well as defendants Jose Manuel Enriquez-Hernandez and Isidro Aguilera-Cortez. Enrique-Hernandez had been residing at the house for approximately 3 months.

According to the criminal complaint, when illegal aliens arrived at the house, Enrique-Hernandez separated the males and females and put them in separate rooms in the house. The room containing the males was locked from the outside with a deadbolt lock. Enrique-Hernandez admitted that the aliens were not free to leave the house until their smuggling fees had been paid. He also admitted that he was paid for his role in harboring the illegal aliens. Aguilera-Cortez was one of the drivers who would bring vehicle loads of illegal aliens to 518 W. Dakota Avenue. He was paid \$500 for transporting a load of 10 aliens. He admitted to transporting one load of illegal aliens and planned on transporting another load in the near future. Of the 38 illegal aliens found in the house, five material witnesses were detained. All five of these material witnesses stated that they were present in the United States illegally. ICE agents subsequently confirmed that these five individuals are Mexican nationals who do not possess documentation allowing them to lawfully enter or remain the United States. These material witnesses stated that Enriquez-Hernandez was the individual in charge of the house, and that when they arrived at the house he put them in a room and locked the door from the outside. These material witnesses further stated that they were not allowed to leave the locked room at any time. A female was also among the 38 illegal aliens found in the house. She stated that she was forced to work as a cook for the illegal aliens and was not free to leave the house at 518 W. Dakota Avenue. She further stated that Aguilera-Cortez was a load car driver and had delivered several loads of illegal aliens to the house. She is being considered a victim-witness.

A conviction for conspiracy to transport and harbor illegal aliens for the purpose of commercial advantage or private financial gain carries a maximum penalty of 10 years, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, the assigned federal district judge will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

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A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation in this case was conducted by United States Immigration and Customs (ICE) Special Agents from the Deputy Agent in Charge (DSAC) Office in Tucson. The prosecution is being handled by Shelley Clemens, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

MAGISTRATE NUMBER: 07-07915M

RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-095(Enriquez-Hernandez & Aguilera-Cortez)

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